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Catholic Problems in Western Canada. By Rev. George Thomas Daly, C. SS. R., with a preface by Most Rev. O. E. Mathieu, Archbishop of Regina. Toronto: The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Ltd., Pp. 252.

The Church in any new land is confronted with a set of problems all its own, in addition to those which are common to the extension of Christianity in all times and in all places. Western Canada is one of the newest outposts and has problems of a pressing nature. To the solution of these problems Father Daly has applied himself, both through personal service in the West and by study. In this volume he has given us his keen analysis of the difficulties and his proposals for their solution.

The problems which confront the Church in Western Canada he finds fall under three heads: Religious, Educational, and Social which he has made the divisions of his treatment.

Under "Religious Problems" he outlines in words of poetic beauty "The Call of the West" and sends forth a Macedonian cry for assistance. The burden of his appeal is for united action, and he well remarks, "Two conditions make united action possible—*uniform plan* and *authoritative leadership*" (p. 41). Nor does he leave us there. He outlines in no indefinite manner what he means by these things. He finds that the problems of any newly-settled country, isolation, the struggle for physical existence, the presence of agencies hostile to the faith, are augmented in Western Canada by the further problem of variation in language, tradition and even of rite among the settlers. The Ruthenians who have gone into some parts of the West in great numbers are very tenacious of their ancient customs and cannot well be ministered to by Latin priests. His call for young English-speaking priests to embrace the Ruthenian rite and go out as missionaries among these people, is a challenge to a missionary vocation excelled by none.

Protestantism is very active in the Prairie Provinces and is concentrating its efforts on upsetting the faith of the Ruthenian settlers. Father Daly rightly avers that "the most elementary principles of Christianity, of a supernatural religion, have lost their grasp on the mind of the average Protestant Westerner" (p. 45) and these systems are substituting for any idea of revealed religion mere social service philanthropy. This is for the time creating a bond of union among them and is giving a temporary success to their efforts. Catholic missionary work is

needed to offset the baneful effects of this propaganda. For this he pleads most eloquently.

Under the head of "Educational Problems" he enters a field where the difference between Canada and the United States is more pronounced than it is in purely religious or missionary matters. American Catholics have been so long accustomed to being compelled "to buy twice over a right of conscience" (p. 163) in the maintenance of their own schools, that they think of nothing else as possible, yet Father Daly's plea for the right, not the favor, of separate schools, aided by the money of Catholic taxpayers is eminently just. He rightly maintains that "a neutral school is a practical impossibility" (p. 177) and quotes many American authorities to show that our own attempt at such is not the huge success that its advocates would have us believe.

Remarking that "there is a decided distinction between higher education for Catholics and higher Catholic education" (p. 210) he argues the necessity of the foundation of a Catholic University for Western Canada, summarizing his arguments as follows:

"1. The interests of Church and country, particularly in the West, demand Catholic leadership;

2. No genuine leadership without University training;

3. For Catholics higher education means higher Catholic education."

Is this ideal to be "Dream or Reality"? is his question. The future position of the Catholic Church in Western Canada depends upon the answer.

In dealing with "Social Problems" the anti-Catholic animus of the specious plea for "Canadianization" is brought to the surface and the true Catholic ideal of patriotism is shown in sharp contrast. The function of the Catholic press in bringing this about is emphasized strongly, as well as its opportunity to create a public opinion favorable to the Church. We do not remember to have seen a better summary of the social conditions which need attention than that here given.

"In our cities, the housing problem, which involves to a great extent, the moral life of the masses, is acute; the white slave traffic has established its haunts and commercialized vice; the moving picture show has become everywhere the most popular educational factor; at its school the young generation, eyes

riveted on the flickering screen, is drinking in the alluring lessons of free love, divorce and every anti-Christian doctrine; our ports will soon see a new tide of immigration invade our shores; the non-Catholic denominations are crumbling away under the very weight of their destructive and disintegrating principle of private judgment; we are surrounded by pagans to whom the supernatural religion of Christianity is but a name or a memory; from our great West comes the urgent cry for help, for men and money" (p. 323). To which Father Daly flings out the cry, "And what are we doing? Here and there a spasmodic effort, a generous outburst of zeal—the work of some society, parish or diocese. While, what we need now is the combined efforts of all the Catholics." (*ibid.*) He believes that a Catholic Congress will be the best remedy, and sets forth a comprehensive and well-ordered plan for one. His concluding words summarize his contentions.

"The Church of the West is in our hands—its future will be what we shall make it—that future, what shall it be?—the Divine Master, His Church, and Catholic posterity, await our answer" (p. 342).

The adversary is active but we can not only oppose him but learn from him. *Fas est ab hoste doceri* might almost be called the motto of this book, so often does Father Daly repeat it and act upon it. He frequently cites the example of the American Church in its recent attempts at better organization of its activities. All told this is a most notable work, for it not only goes to the bottom of the troubles and problems of the Western Canada but it gives concrete plans for remedying them. It should be read by every Canadian Catholic, while its perusal by us in the United States will teach us much that will be most useful in our own work which is so similar.

May God hasten the day when the Catholic religion shall come into its own throughout the North American continent. If Canada lives up to the ideal here set forth, she will have done her share in bringing this condition into being.

FLOYD KEELER, A.M., S.T.B.

The Brides of Christ. By Mother Mary Potter. Chicago: Matre & Co., 1920. Pp. vii+109.

This little volume is a sequel to "Spiritual Maternity" and is one of several books which comprise Our Lady's Little Library